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**In the Claims:**

**Claim 1 (previously presented)** Isolated polynucleotide comprising the sequence SEQ.ID.NO. 8 or one of its fragments.

**Claim 2 (previously presented)** An isolated polynucleotide according to claim 1, wherein it is a polynucleotide of sequence SEQ.ID.NO. 8.

**Claim 3 (previously presented)** An isolated polynucleotide according to claim 1, wherein it is a polynucleotide of sequence SEQ.ID.NO. 9.

**Claim 4 (previously presented)** A polynucleotide selected from the group consisting of sequence SEQ.ID.NO. 4, SEQ.ID.NO. 5, SEQ.ID.NO. 11 and SEQ.ID.NO. 12.

**Claim 5 (previously presented)** A polynucleotide of sequence SEQ.ID.NO. 13.

**Claim 6 (previously presented)** An isolated polypeptide comprising the sequence SEQ.ID.NO. 14 or one of its fragments.

**Claim 7 (currently amended)** An isolated polypeptide according to claim 6, wherein it is a polypeptide of sequence ~~SEQ.ID.14~~ SEQ.ID.NO. 14.

**Claim 8 (previously presented)** An expression vector containing a polynucleotide of sequence SEQ.ID.NO. 13.

**Claim 9 (previously presented)** A host cell transformed or transfected by an expression vector according to claim 8.

**Claim 10 (currently amended)** A process for preparing an isolated polypeptide comprising the protein encoded by the polynucleotide sequence SEQ.ID.NO. 9 or SEQ.ID.NO. 13 or one of the fragments of the latter or by a sequence complementary to the polynucleotide sequence SEQ.ID.NO. 9 or one of the fragments of the latter, said isolated polypeptide having at least one immunological and/or biological activity characteristic of a protein binding human GHRH and being associated with the modulation of cell proliferation, said preparation process comprising the following steps:

(a) culture, under suitable conditions to obtain the expression of said polypeptide of a host cell transformed or transfected with an expression vector comprising an isolated polynucleotide comprising the polynucleotide sequence SEQ.ID.NO. 9 or SEQ.ID.NO. 13, the sequence complementary to the polynucleotide sequence SEQ.ID.NO. 9 or SEQ.ID.NO. 13 or also one of the fragments of the latter, said isolated polypeptide having at least one immunological and/or biological activity characteristic of a protein human GHRN and being associated with the modulation of cell proliferation, and

(b) isolation of the polypeptide from the host cell cultures.

**Claim 11 (previously presented)**      An antibody or antigen-binding fragment of the latter, which specifically binds the protein sequence SEQ.ID.NO. 14 but not the protein of sequence SEQ.ID.NO. 10.

Cancel **Claims 12 to 17.**

**Claim 18 (previously presented)**      A method for the identification of compounds capable of binding human GHRH and modulating cell proliferation comprising:

(a)    bring each candidate compound into contact with an isolated polypeptide comprising:

- either a fragment of the protein encoded by the polynucleotide sequence SEQ.ID.NO. 9 or by a sequence complementary to the polynucleotide sequence SEQ.ID.NO. 9,
- or a fragment of the protein encoded by the polynucleotide sequence SEQ.ID.NO. 13 or by a sequence complementary to the polynucleotide sequence SEQ.ID.NO. 13,

under condition and for a time sufficient to allow the candidate agent to bind to the polypeptide, said isolated polypeptide having at least one immunological and/or biological activity characteristic of a protein binding human GHRH and being associated with the modulation of cell proliferation, and

- (b) detection of the binding of each candidate compound to said polypeptide and identification, from the candidate compounds, of the compounds capable of binding human GHRH and modulating cell proliferation.

**Claim 19 (previously presented)** A pharmaceutical composition for treating a proliferative disease comprising an amount of a polynucleotide of claim 1 sufficient to treat said disease and an inert carrier.

**Claim 20 (previously presented)** A pharmaceutical composition for treating a proliferative disease comprising an amount of a polypeptide of claim 6 sufficient to treat said disease and an inert carrier.

**Claim 21 (previously presented)** A method of treating a proliferative disease in a warm-blooded animal comprising administering to a warm-blooded animal an amount of polynucleotide of claim 1 sufficient to treat said disease.

**Claim 22 (previously presented)** A method of treating a proliferative disease in a warm-blooded animal an amount of polypeptide of claim 6 sufficient to treat said disease.